GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:97
ANSWERED ON:12.07.2004
STARVATION DEATHS
Athawale Shri Ramdas;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the incidents of deaths due to starvation across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such deaths, State-wise;

(c) whether a Central team visited such States;

(d) if so, whether the team has submitted its report;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action initiated against those responsible; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure such cases are not repeated in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 97 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 12TH JULY, 2004 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a), (b),(c),(d)&(e): No starvation death has been reported by any State Government/UT Administration during the last six months.

(f): To ensure food security for all and to improve the Public Distribution System (PDS) for the benefit of the poorest of the poor from amongst the BPL families, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was commenced in December, 2000 to provide 25 kg. of foodgrains per family per month at highly subsidized rates of Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice. The scale of issue has been enhanced to 35 kg. per family per month with effect from April, 2002 . The Yojana which initially covered one crore poorest of the poor families has been expanded to cover 1.5 crore BPL families in June, 2003. It is now being further expanded to cover another 50 lakh BPL families particularly the ones which are at the risk of hunger. Besides AAY, other complementary Welfare Schemes such as Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY), Annapoorna and Mid-day Meals Programme etc. are under implementation for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.